extension fee is enclosed. Please charge any additional fee
required for the extension, and credit any overpayment, to
Deposit Account 06-1205.

In response to the Office Action, please amend the
above-identified application as follows:

IN THE TITLE:

Please rewrite the title to read --Expression Tree
Optimization For Processing Obscured Graphical Objects--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 8, 17 and 24 as follows:

1.   (AMENDED) A method for optimising an
expression tree, said expression tree for compositing an
image and comprising at least [two] three nodes, each said
node of said tree being either a graphical element or a
graphical operator and having a region of the image
represented by said node, the method comprising, for at least
one node in said tree, the steps of:

comparing the region represented by said node
to a region representation data structure corresponding to
one or more regions represented by [at least one] any other
node in said expression tree;

- 2 -

determining if the region represented by said

node is totally or partially obscured by said one or more

regions; and

modifying the expression tree in the event

that the region represented by said node is at least

partially or totally obscured.

8.   (AMENDED) A method of optimising an

expression tree for compositing an image, said expression

tree comprising a plurality of nodes each said node being

either a graphical element or a graphical operator and having

a region of the image represented by said node, said method

comprising the steps of:

traversing the expression tree node by node;

and

determining at a current node if a region of

the image represented at said current node is obscured by

regions represented by [at least one] any other node in said

expression tree, and modifying said expression tree in the

event that the current node is partially or totally obscured.

17. (AMENDED) An apparatus for optimising an

expression tree, said expression tree for compositing an

- 3 -

image and comprising at least [two] <u>three</u> nodes, each said

node of said tree being either a graphical element or a

graphical operator and having a region of the image

represented by said node, the apparatus comprising:

means for comparing the region represented by said

node to a region representation data structure corresponding

to one or more regions represented by [at least one] <u>any</u>

other node <u>in said expression tree</u>;

means for determining if the region represented by

said node is totally or partially obscured by said one or

more regions; and

means for modifying the expression tree in the

event that the region represented by said node is at least

partially or totally obscured.

24.　(AMENDED)　An apparatus for optimising an

expression tree for compositing an image, said expression

tree comprising a plurality of nodes each said node being

either a graphical element or a graphical operator and having

a region of the image represented by said node, said

apparatus comprising:

means for traversing the expression tree node

by node;

- 4 -